

# Department of Redundant Duplication

**CAREFULLY READ THE BANK TITLE ON THE** upper note in the pair shown here.

If you don't get it, read the title slowly and more carefully a second time.

How about that!

This fabulous error was made on the \$5 Series of 1882 Brown Back A-B-C-D plate approved for The Old Colony



## THE PAPER COLUMN

by Peter Huntoon

National Bank of Plymouth, Massachusetts (996), on February 12, 1885. The plate wasn't fixed until November 25th, nine months later.

The best part is that sheets containing the error were issued: 1,000 of them, or 4,000 notes!

The first and only shipment of the error from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was received by the Comptroller of the Currency's office on March 9, 1885. One thousand sheets were in that order, serials 1-1000, B283422-B284421. They were needed immediately, so the first were shipped to the bank that day.

When the error was discovered is unknown, but after it was, someone wrote "of of" next to the entry for the shipment in the receipts ledger.

The next shipment of sheets, these from the corrected plate, arrived in the Comptroller's office on December 28, 1885. This shipment consisted of sheets 1001-1500, D429238-D429737. Despite having corrected sheets on hand, and knowing of the mistake, the Comptroller's clerks continued to issue the error sheets until January 14, 1886, when the stock of them was depleted.

The bank ultimately issued 24,831 sheets of \$5 Series of 1882 Brown Backs, the error representing 16 percent of the total. No \$5 Brown Backs with the error have been reported. Maybe you will get lucky! The error is unprecedented in my experience.

We found this error in September, 2000, while sorting the certified proofs for the

large size National Bank Note face plates in the Smithsonian Collections. Smithsonian Volunteer Kathleen Kimball was sorting Massachusetts. She noticed the notation "Word 'of' above 'Plymouth' erased Nov. 25, 1885," in the bottom margin of what appeared to be a duplicate 5-5-5 Series of 1882 A-B-C-D proof for the bank. There was a lot of excitement as everyone within hearing distance piled on to enjoy the find!

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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### SOURCES

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